

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:
a processor;
a memory coupled to the processor; and
a bridge device coupling a system bus to the processor, the system bus configured to couple to an expansion bus of a managed computer system;
wherein the memory is configured to hold a bootable image for the managed computer system, and wherein the processor is configured to emulate a disk drive device storing the bootable image, and to boot the managed computer system from the bootable image stored in the memory.
2. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the processor is configured to determine a source of an error in the managed computer system by accessing components of the managed computer system over the system bus.
3. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the processor is configured to store information related to a state of the managed computer system in the memory.
4. The system as defined in claim 3 wherein the processor is configured to store diagnostic information about the managed computer system in the memory.
5. The system as defined in claim 3 wherein the processor is configured to store event log information about the managed computer system in the memory.
6. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the processor is configured to reboot the managed computer system without accessing a host processor of the managed computer system.

7. The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
a network interface coupled to the memory by the system bus;
wherein the bootable image is transferable to the memory through the network interface.
8. The system as defined in claim 7 wherein the bootable image is transferable to the memory through the network interface from a remote management console.
9. The system as defined in claim 7 wherein the bootable image is transferable to the memory through the network interface using file transfer protocol (FTP) software.
10. The system as defined in claim 7 wherein the bootable image is transferable to the memory through the network interface using TFTP software.
11. A method comprising:
transferring a bootable image for a managed computer system to a memory within a management sub-system coupled to the managed computer system; and
emulating a floppy drive by the management sub-system to boot the managed computer system from the bootable image in the memory of the management sub-system.
12. The method as defined in claim 11 further comprising transferring the bootable image to the memory at the behest of a remote management console.
13. The method as defined in claim 12 further comprising transferring the bootable image to the memory from the remote management console.

14. The method as defined in claim 12 further comprising transferring the bootable image through a network interface coupled to the management sub-system using a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) software.

15. The method as defined in claim 12 further comprising transferring the bootable image through a network interface coupled to the management sub-system using TFTP software.

16. The method as defined in claim 11 further comprising rebooting the managed computer system, by a processor of the management sub-system, prior to emulating.

17. A management sub-system comprising:
a processor;
a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a bootable image for a managed computer system; and
a bridge device coupling a system bus to the processor, and wherein the system bus is configured to couple to an expansion bus of the managed computer system;
wherein the processor is configured to emulate a disk drive device storing the bootable image, and the processor is further configured to boot the managed computer system from the bootable image stored in the memory.

18. The management sub-system as defined in claim 17 further comprising:
a network interface coupled to the memory by the system bus;
wherein the bootable image is transferable to the memory through the network interface.

19. The management sub-system as defined in claim 18 wherein the bootable image is transferable to the memory through the network interface from a remote management console.

20. The management sub-system as defined in claim 18 wherein the bootable image is transferred to the memory through the network interface using TFTP software.

21. The management sub-system as defined in claim 17 wherein the processor, memory and network interface are mounted on an add-in card configured to be substantially within the chassis of the managed computer system.

22. The management sub-system as defined in claim 17 wherein the system bus is a Peripheral Components Interconnect (PCI) bus.